

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

November, 2013

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2013

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INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership Roster

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**Robert Cherry, Vice-Chairperson
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**Jean Breaux
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**Richard Young
Milltown**

Staff

**Francine Rowley-Lacy
Attorney for the Committee**

**Jessica Harmon
Fiscal Analyst for the Committee**

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

IC 15-13-6-4 directs the State Fair Advisory Committee to:

- (1) Serve as a liaison between the
 - (A) commission;
 - (B) board of trustees of the Barn;
 - (C) board; and
 - (D) General Assembly.
- (2) Review policies affecting the activities of the
 - (A) commission;
 - (B) Barn;
 - (C) State Fair;
 - (D) facilities at the fairgrounds; and
 - (E) property owned by the commission.
- (3) Provide long-range guidance for the
 - (A) commission;
 - (B) board of trustees of the Barn; and
 - (C) board.
- (4) Review annually the
 - (A) commission's;
 - (B) board of trustees of the Barn's; and
 - (C) board's;budgets and other accounts and report financial conditions to the Legislative Council.
- (5) Further advise the Budget Committee regarding appropriations and other financial matters concerning the:
 - (A) commission;
 - (B) board of trustees of the Barn; and
 - (C) board.
- (6) Propose, review, and make recommendations concerning legislation affecting the:
 - (A) commission;
 - (B) Barn; and
 - (C) board.

The Legislative Council did not assign any topics of study to the Committee in 2013.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met twice during the 2013 interim. Meetings were held on:

- (1) July 30, 2013.
- (2) October 21, 2013.

Both meetings were held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at the Indiana State

Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Update on the Indiana State Fair Foundation. Justin Armstrong, Director of Advancement, Indiana State Fair Commission (Commission), informed the Committee that the Foundation has raised approximately \$8.5 million to support the Coliseum renovation project.

Update on the 2013 Indiana State Fair: Financials. David Ellis, Director of Finance, Indiana State Fair, reported net gains from the 2013 Indiana State Fair. He also reported that the Coliseum project is on schedule and on budget. Director Ellis reported that the Finance Advisory Committee for the Indiana State Fair suggested creating a reserve of about \$500,000 for a rainy day fund when there are bad weather years during the Indiana State Fair and to pay off bond debt. He gave the following results from the 2013 Indiana State Fair compared to the results from the 2012 Indiana State Fair:

- (A) Attendance increased by 15%.
- (B) Gates revenue increased by \$241,961.
- (C) Concession commissions increased by 24%.
- (D) Per capita spending on concessions increased from \$6.34 to \$7.19.
- (E) Total revenue was down \$300,000.
- (F) Total expenses were down \$1.1 million.

Cindy Hoye, Executive Director of the Commission, informed the Committee that the Indiana State Fair is a year round operation and because of a \$2 million decrease in its appropriation from the state, 30% of the Indiana State Fair staff had to be cut. She discussed the need to recoup lost funding and increase staff.

Update on the 2013 Indiana State Fair: Coliseum and Youth Arena Complex Project.

Executive Director Hoye reported that the Youth Arena opened during the Indiana State Fair this year, ice skating began inside the Youth Arena on October 1, and a deal has been signed for the Coliseum to serve as the venue for the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis men and women's basketball games. She also reported that there is a memorandum of understanding with a professional hockey team to play in the Coliseum. She reported that other events planned for the complex include boat and travel shows, concerts, and livestock events.

Justin Armstrong, Indiana State Fair Foundation and Director of Advancement, Indiana State Fair Commission, reported that renovation of the Coliseum is proceeding ahead of schedule and should be completed by April of 2014. He stated that the Commission has raised just under \$8.5 million dollars for the renovation of the Coliseum and is looking for partners to help raise the remaining \$1.5 million to complete the project. He noted that individual donors have been the primary source of funding for the project. There will be a donor wall inside the Coliseum to

honor the highest donors.

Discussion Regarding Potential Changes to the Indiana State Fair Foundation. The Committee discussed: (1) whether the membership of the Indiana State Fair Foundation should be changed; (2) conflicting Indiana State Fair dates with the balanced school calendar; and, (3) as a means of promoting value added agriculture, the issue of alcohol sales or distribution on the State Fairgrounds during the period of the Indiana State Fair.

Summary of Indiana Beer, Wine, and Spirits State Exhibition. Director Armstrong summarized the benefits of showcasing Indiana beer, wine, and spirits at the Indiana State Fair.

Mark Webb, Leann Smith, and Kelly Fritz, of the Brewers of Indiana Guild, explained the concept of craft breweries and promoted the exhibition and sale of Indiana craft beer during the Indiana State Fair.

IV. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended via unanimous voice vote (7-0) to support legislation to be offered during the 2014 session of the Indiana General Assembly to increase the state appropriation to the Indiana State Fair.

The Committee recommended via voice vote (6 to 0) to support legislation to be offered during the 2014 session of the Indiana General Assembly to remove the statutory prohibition of alcohol sales (IC 7.1-5-10-17) during the 17 days of the Indiana State Fair. Representative Porter abstained from the vote.

For more detailed information concerning the testimony at a meeting, please see the minutes for the committee, which can be accessed from the General Assembly homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.